

**To:** Hutchinson, Margaret (USAPAE)[Margaret.Hutchinson@usdoj.gov]  
**From:** Day, Christopher  
**Sent:** Tue 4/23/2013 2:19:03 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Council awards \$5.35 million contract to rebuild Fritz's Island

Peg - some positive news on from Reading

-----Original Message-----

From: Kanetsky, Charles  
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 9:27 AM  
To: Trakis, Lisa; Day, Christopher  
Subject: FW: Council awards \$5.35 million contract to rebuild Fritz's Island

FYI.

-----Original Message-----

From: Hebelka, Joseph [mailto:jhebelka@pa.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 9:08 AM  
To: Tom Davidock; Kanetsky, Charles  
Cc: 'kelly.anderson@phila.gov'; Corriveau, Edward  
Subject: Council awards \$5.35 million contract to rebuild Fritz's Island

FYI...article from 4/23 Reading Eagle; online at: <http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=471552>

Council awards \$5.35 million contract to rebuild Fritz's Island Originally Published: 4/23/2013 Reading Eagle

City Council voted unanimously Monday to award a \$5.35 million contract to design the rebuilding of the city's wastewater treatment plant on Fritz's Island.

"It's taken us awhile to get here," Mayor Vaughn D. Spencer said. "We're on the way to making some good progress."

The contract was awarded to York-based RK&K Inc., the winner after the city weeded out six other firms during what Managing Director Carole B. Snyder called an extensive review process.

Public Works Director Charles M. Jones and plant manager Ralph Johnson said the rebuilding project is expected to cost about \$101 million.

However, they said the city won't know the cost for sure until the design work is completed about September 2014 and the city gets construction bids.

The city is under a 2004 federal order to either fix or replace the plant because of its history of environmental problems. However, the plant, which also takes sewage from 11 outside municipalities, has been run the past several years with no major violations.

Still, the order remains in effect in part because the plant can't handle volumes much above its normal load of about 15 million gallons a day.

The city earlier had gotten federal approval to build a mostly new plant to treat 28 million gallons a day, but the estimated cost of that skyrocketed to more than \$400 million for the plant and related costs.

That plan included a mile-long, 10-foot-diameter, \$70 million sewage tunnel from the Sixth and Canal

Pumping Station to the plant.

"The (new) plant was supposed to be built by now (2012), but we were going the wrong direction in the beginning," Spencer, who was City Council president at the time, said of the earlier plan.

Three years ago, city officials decided customers couldn't afford that huge cost and since then have switched plans to rebuild the existing plant, making it treat only 21 million gallons a day and obtaining regulatory approvals for it.

"I think we've shown we're doing what they want us to do," Spencer said.

Although the city already had paid the former design firm, Black & Veatch, \$15 million for little more than half the design of the former plan, a design now useless, city officials figured the cheaper plant is worth the wait.

"The second design is going to save us an awful lot of money," Councilman Dennis M. Sterner said.

Besides the \$101 million cost of a rebuilt plant, the city will pay \$10.8 million for a huge flow meter and a second force main instead of the big tunnel.

It also will have so-called soft costs, such as the design, attorneys for the bond issue that will pay for construction, and a team of engineers acting as the city's construction manager on the job.